

## **BEATTIES FORD ROAD WIDENING PROJECT PUBLIC WORKSHOPS SUMMARY**

**DATES:** September 16, 2003 and September 18, 2003

**TIME:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**LOCATIONS:** Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>: University Park Baptist Church  
Room 200 and 201  
6029 Beatties Ford Road

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>: McCrorey YMCA  
3801 Beatties Ford Road

<b>PROJECT TEAM: REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup> :	Gayle Vaca, E&PM Leon Howe, CDOT Barry Mosely, Planning Tim Greene, E&PM Mike Dozzi, PBS&J Gina Gilgo, PBS&J	Kruti Desai, E&PM Debbie Self, CDOT Milton Carothers, Real Estate James Mitchell, City Council Michael Holt, PBS&J Calista Hall, PBS&J
	Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> :	Gayle Vaca, E&PM Justin Carroll, CDOT Joyce Gillon, Planning John Rose, CATS Mike Dozzi, PBS&J Gina Gilgo, PBS&J	Leon Howe, CDOT John Howard, Planning Milton Carothers, Real Estate James Mitchell, City Council Michael Holt, PBS&J Calista Hall, PBS&J

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Public Workshops were held on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss traffic analysis and traffic operations, safety considerations, and future transportation needs along the corridor, as well as to address the issues and concerns brought up at the April 2003 meeting. The workshop on September 16 focused on the section of Beatties Ford Road from Sunset Road to Lakeview Road. The workshop on September 18 focused on the section of Beatties Ford Road from Capps Hill Mine Road to Sunset Road.

After a brief presentation, the public was divided into small work groups. Each work group was asked to answer a set of questions regarding community identity and transportation needs along the Beatties Ford Road corridor. The small work groups also discussed median openings and used exhibits to identify or sketch desired median opening locations at various places along Beatties Ford Road.

A representative from each group presented their results from the small breakout groups followed by a general question and answer period. The project team representatives then spent time answering individual or specific questions.

Both meetings adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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### **September 16 (Sunset Road to Lakeview Road) - three work groups:**

#### Community Identity

- Consistent across the three groups. Parks, schools, trees, historic site, and a few traffic signals seemed to be key to keeping a residential feel for the area.
- There was some concern about keeping the Hyde Park sign in tact or moving it to a new location.
- Enhancements the groups would like to see added include a library, street lights, bus stop shelters, sidewalks, bike lanes, and placing utilities underground.
- There was some safety concerns with the bus stops being too close to neighborhood entrances. Some were pleased to keep the bus stops where they are for ease of access for the physically challenged.
- Another bus stop issue revolved around “bus stops are litter stops.” A suggestion was made to locate bus stops by empty lots rather than be located in front of a residence.
- Some would like the drainage ditch near Trinity Road removed.

#### Transportation Features

- All the groups agreed that sidewalks were needed and most preferred a planting strip.
- All the groups agreed that bicycles should have their own delineated lane, one person even saying bikes should not even be on the road but have their own separate trail.
- However, it was stated that bike lanes should not be constructed at the sacrifice of the trees.
- All groups preferred that the roadway should be a four-lane median divided roadway.

#### Median Openings

- Sunset Road, Trinity Road, and Lakeview Road will all have a median opening.
- There were several opinions on other median opening locations.
- One group preferred placing median openings at both entrances of Hyde Park in spite of being too close to fit within NCDOT guidelines.
- One group preferred a median opening at the southern most entrance to Hyde Park. The University Park Baptist Church can possibly be realigned to line up with that opening.
- Another option was to place a median opening at the south entrance of Hyde Park and the north entrance of University Park Baptist Church.
- Other median opening locations were noted at McIntyre Road and one near the daycare at 5400 Beatties Ford Road.

#### Utilities

- The issue of placing utilities underground came up and was addressed by Leon Howe. In summary, no decisions have yet been made on the placement of utilities, whether they are to be overhead and located at the back of sidewalk or located in the planting strip. Several proposals are currently before city council to bury all utilities in Charlotte/Mecklenburg. However, it can cost more to bury the utilities than it would cost to construct the roadway improvements.

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### **September 18 (Capps Hill Mine Road to Sunset Road) - two work groups**

#### Community Identity

- Both groups definitely wanted to preserve the rural/residential feel for the area.
- The stone wall by the Presbyterian church wall and street lighting were features that both groups felt needed to be preserved.
- Enhancements that the groups would like to see added include more trees and sidewalk with a planting area. Some preferred sidewalk only on one side of the road.
- There were some concerns about the Martin Marietta blasting operations.

#### Transportation Features

- Both groups agreed that sidewalks with a planting strip should be included as part of the roadway improvements.
- One group preferred separate bike lanes on Beatties Ford while the members of the second group thought a wide outside travel lane would be sufficient for bikes.
- The curve by the Presbyterian church should be straightened.
- The first group preferred either a four-lane median divided roadway or, in some sections, a five-lane section with no median.
- The second group preferred either a four or a five lane roadway with no median.

#### Median Openings

- Capps Hill Mine Road and Sunset Road will have a median opening.
- There were several opinions on other median opening locations.
- One group preferred median openings at Slater Road, Olde English Drive/Martin Marietta entrance, Hamilton Circle, and a location between Hamilton Circle and Olde English Drive.
- The second group preferred median openings at Slater Road, Olde English Drive, the Presbyterian Church entrance, and Hamilton Drive.

cc: 290263 A1